



Peter and the Starcatcher confirms celebrated Australian stars of stage and screen **Otis Dhanji, Colin Lane, Olivia Deeble, Paul Capsis** and **Alison Whyte** for spectacular voyage to Neverland



Peter and the Starcatcher Australian [cast video](#) and [images](#) available for download.

[TUESDAY 4 JUNE 2024] An all-Australian star cast will bring the 5-time Tony Award-winning **Peter and the Starcatcher** to life for the very first time in a reimagined Australian production. The Broadway smash hit will premiere October 2024 at **Canberra Theatre Centre**, ahead of a national tour.

Peter and the Starcatcher is the untold story of Neverland. Before Neverland there was an Island. Before Captain Hook, a pirate. Before Wendy, her mother Molly. Before Peter, a nameless boy.

Originally developed by **Disney Theatrical Group** and written by renowned stage writer and 4-time Tony Award nominee **Rick Elice** (*Water for Elephants, Jersey Boys, The Addams Family*), with music by **Wayne Barker**, this all-new production is directed by Helpmann Award-nominated Australian director and Dead Puppet Society co-founder **David Morton** (*Holding Achilles, The Wider Earth*).

The Australian production features a star-studded ensemble cast including **Otis Dhanji** from blockbuster *Aquaman* and Netflix hit *The Unlisted* as Boy / Peter; one of Australia's most recognisable comedy faces **Colin Lane** from duo *Lano & Woodley* as Black Stache; and television star **Olivia Deeble**, known for roles on *Home and Away, More Than This* and *Secret Society of Second Born Royals*, as Molly.

Also featuring in the Peter Pan prequel story is **Ryan Gonzalez** (*Moulin Rouge! The Musical, In The Heights*) as Fighting Prawn; **Paul Capsis** (*La Cage aux Folles, Head On, The Rocky Horror Show*) as Slank and Hawking Clam; **Hugh Parker** (*The Office, The Family Law*) as Captain Scott; **Morgan Francis** (*Boy, Lost*) as Prentiss; and **Alison Whyte** (*Death of a Salesman, Groundhog Day The Musical, The Dressmaker*) as Lord Aster.

Completing the company, which inhabits over 100 characters in this production full of fantasy and adventure, is **Leon Cain** and **Benjin Maza**, along with offstage covers **James Haxby, Erika Naddei** and **Natasha Veselinovic**, and on-stage musicians **Annie Silva-McKnight, James Dobinson** and **Luke Volker**.



Reimagined for Australian audiences, this highly anticipated version of *Peter and the Starcatcher* blurs the lines between reality and fantasy, traversing oceans of mystical mermaids and lands of curious creatures.

This production is a major coup for international Brisbane-based production and design house **Dead Puppet Society**, led by **Creative Director David Morton** and **Executive Producer Nicholas Paine** who, in an Australian first, has been granted a license by **Disney Theatrical Group** and **Music Theatre International (Australasia)** to stage a new version of the Tony Award-winning production. **Dead Puppet Society** is joined in presenting this production of *Peter and the Starcatcher* by the London-based **Glass Half Full Productions**, currently with major productions running on both Broadway and the West End; **JONES Theatrical Group**, the team behind the current Australian tour of *Chicago* and upcoming Sydney season of *Book of Mormon*; and **Damien Hewitt**, co-producer for *Girl From The North Country* and *Liz Kingsman: One Woman Show*.

Peter and the Starcatcher is written by **Rick Elice** with music by **Wayne Barker**. This new Australian production is directed and designed by **David Morton** with musical direction and additional music by **James Dobinson**, movement direction by **Liesel Zink**, lighting design by **Ben Hughes**, costume design by **Anna Cordingley**, and sound design by **Matthew Erskine**. Completing the production team is casting director **Michael Topple**, creative producer **Nicholas Paine** and associate director **Matt Seery**.

Jump on board this theatrical spectacle bursting with 100 unforgettable characters, live music and technical wizardry, and discover the untold story of Neverland.

Peter and The Starcatcher will premiere at **Canberra Theatre Centre** in October 2024, followed by seasons at **Arts Centre Melbourne**, **Adelaide Festival Centre**, **Sydney's Capitol Theatre** and **Queensland Performing Arts Centre**. Hook tickets now!

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Commissioned and originally produced by Disney Theatrical Group.

Originally produced on Broadway by Nancy Nagel Gibbs, Greg Schaffert, Eva Price, Tom Smedes, and Disney Theatrical Group.

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).

This project is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

"YOU MUST EXPERIENCE IT FOR YOURSELF"

New York Times

"AN ABSURDLY FUNNY FANTASTICAL JOURNEY"

Entertainment Weekly

"A BLISSFUL EXERCISE IN THE MAKE BELIEVE"

New York Times

"A ROLICKING GOOD TIME"

Entertainment Weekly

Peter and the Starcatcher
peterandthestarcatcher.com.au
@peterandthestarcatchertour

Dead Puppet Society
deadpuppetsociety.com.au
@deadpuppetsociety

Canberra – Canberra Theatre Centre
From 15 October 2024

Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne
From 8 November 2024

Adelaide – Adelaide Festival Centre
From 9 January 2025

Sydney – Capitol Theatre
From 31 January 2025

Brisbane – Queensland Performing Arts Centre
From 14 March 2025

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ABOUT DEAD PUPPET SOCIETY

Dead Puppet Society (DPS) is an international production house and design-led theatre company that combines timeless craftsmanship with cutting-edge technology to create deeply imaginative experiences wrought with spectacle and wonder.

Recent box office hits include *Holding Achilles*, *The Wider Earth*, *Ishmael*, *Laser Beak Man* and *Storm Boy*. DPS also creates captivating activations for events and public spaces, from open-air performances and large-scale installations, to one-of-a-kind, laser-cut artefacts and exquisite, custom-made sculptures.

Dead Puppet Society has a Gallery and Fabrication Workshop space in Woolloongabba, Brisbane. www.deadpuppetsociety.com

ABOUT RICK ELICE

Broadway: *Water for Elephants* (directed by Jessica Stone: Tony Award nominated, Best Book of a Musical), *The Cher Show*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Jersey Boys* (with Marshall Brickman, Bob Gaudio, Bob Crewe; directed by Des McAnuff: Tony Award, Best Musical); *The Addams Family* (with Marshall Brickman, Andrew Lipa; directed by Jerry Zaks). Regional: *Turn of the Century* (with Marshall Brickman; directed by Tommy Tune); *Double Double* (directed by Roger Rees); *Dog and Pony* (with Michael Patrick Walker); *Studio 54* (with Stephen Trask, Peter Yanowitz; directed by Christopher Ashley). His book *Finding Roger, An Improbably Theatrical Love Story* is published by Kingswell.

ABOUT WAYNE BARKER

2011 Drama Desk Award for *Peter and the Starcatcher*. B'way: *Dame Edna: Back With a Vengeance* (composer, co-lyricist with Barry Humphries). Reg'l: *The Great Gatsby* (Guthrie), *Twelfth Night and The Three Musketeers* (Seattle Rep). TV: "A Little Curious." Other: Mark Bennett's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (orchestrations). *Chicago City Limits*, the *Raymond Scott Orchestrette*, orchestras worldwide. Upcoming: *I Heart Bob*. Dramatists Guild: artistic associate for new musicals at NYTW.

ABOUT DAVID MORTON, DIRECTOR AND DESIGNER

David is a writer, director and designer, and the Creative Director of Dead Puppet Society. Over the last fourteen years he has led Dead Puppet Society in the creation of large-scale design-led theatre works developed with international teams. Some highlights from work produced includes *Holding Achilles* which was supported through the Major Festivals Initiative and has had successful seasons with Brisbane and Sydney Festivals. *The Wider Earth* (Dead Puppet Society, Queensland Theatre, Trish Wadley Productions, Glass Half Full Productions) was conceived in residence at St Ann's Warehouse in Brooklyn, New York City and enjoyed a six-month run in a custom-built theatre in London's Natural History Museum. David has been nominated for five Helpmann Awards and an Olivier Award. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy in puppetry and visual theatre from Queensland University of Technology.

CREDITS

A Dead Puppet Society, Glass Half Full Productions, JONES Theatrical Group and Damien Hewitt
Production

Creatives

Written by Rick Elice

Music by Wayne Barker

Director and Designer: David Morton

Musical Director and Additional Music: James Dobinson

Movement Director: Liesel Zink

Lighting Designer: Ben Hughes

Costume Designer: Anna Cordingley

Sound Designer: Matthew Erskine

Casting Director: Michael Topple

Creative Producer: Nicholas Paine

Associate Director: Matt Seery

Producers

Dead Puppet Society

Glass Half Full Productions

JONES Theatrical Group

Damien Hewitt

Co-Producers

Bryan McCaffrey

Canberra Theatre Centre

Nancy Gibbs

Neil Gooding Productions

PowerArts

The Jelley Family Foundation

Woodward Productions